

ABROAD

LUANDA

Part of the Way

Angola's Marxist government has decided to go part of the way toward regaining the economic health the country had when its colonial Portuguese rulers left it 13 years ago. But it will not give up its 12-year-old war, spurred on by Cuban and Soviet auxiliaries, against the rebel movement UNITA, which has been fighting a successful guerrilla action against it. In a New Year's message, President José Eduardo dos Santos focused on the rescheduling of Angola's International Monetary Fund loan of \$4 billion as a primary step in restoring some balance to the country's once-rich economy. He said that the delay in doing so was caused by "excessive ideological zeal," but added that his government was approaching Western countries such as France and Britain for talks on external obligations. Dos Santos also warned the West that Angola would not allow any outside interference or permit the growth of conditions that might lead to economic dependence. (Angola has been receiving substantial help from Eastern-bloc countries, especially the Soviet Union, for years.) Meanwhile, he promised to restructure the domestic economy by improving the supply of market goods, reducing black-market trafficking, and adjusting prices.

TRIPOLI

Out of Circulation?

Muammar Qaddafi has been out of the headlines for some time, but he has not been idle. Colonel Qaddafi's major effort recently has been to rebuild bridges with his neighbors Tunisia and Algeria. Tunisia broke relations with Tripoli after Qaddafi expelled 32,000 Tunisian workers in 1985. But he has since paid \$30 million to compensate them for lost wages and seized property, and Tunisians are once again seeking work in Libya. Air service has been re-established between the two capitals, and the Tunisian consulate here has been re-opened. The ground for the rapprochement with Algeria was prepared by Libya's estrangement from Morocco, Algeria's traditional rival and enemy. Last summer, Qaddafi proposed to the Algerians one of those "unions" that crop up in the Arab world from time to time. The Algerian government was cool at first, but then began to see in the initiative an opportunity to make difficulties for its western neighbor, still embroiled in its Sahara war with the Algerian-supported Polisario guerrillas. Another reason for Algeria's satisfaction with its new relationship with Qaddafi is the restraint it can seem to exercise over the Libyan leader in regard to further adventures in Central Africa. Qaddafi's invasion of Chad frightened many black African governments whose votes in international organizations Algiers cares about. If Algeria can take credit for Qaddafi's present forbearance, so much the better.

BUCHAREST

Hanging Tough

Rumanian president Nicolae Ceausescu has become a legend in Eastern Europe as both a hard-line Communist bitter-ender and a nepotist for whom there is no such thing as an unemployable relative. His oppressive conduct at the

recent congress of the Rumanian Communist Party was a breathtaking defiance of the reformist winds from the Soviet Union. Ceausescu has stirred up unrest in his country with industrial policies that have severely curtailed supplies of electricity this winter, raised food prices, and generally tightened public supervision. For this he paid with the uprising in November in the mining city of Brasov. The uprising was violently suppressed, but it has led to other manifestations of unrest. His refusal at the Party congress to do anything about the workers' plight other than initiate a token pay raise for miners may well lead to more. Ceausescu's performance also failed to impress an important recent visitor from West Germany, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Brasov was settled, centuries ago, by Germans, who have preserved their ethnic identity and today number 200,000. The Federal Republic has been ransoming them from the Communists at \$4,000 a head, the price of an emigration visa. It wants other restrictions on the Brasov Germans done away with and even has a plan to fly in emergency food supplies to them.

LONDON

Celebrating the Ripper

This is the centenary of the grisly murders in the East End of London committed by Jack the Ripper, the most fiendish of legendary English fiends. Continuing interest in the career of the criminal who randomly did away with four to seven women in three months has led to commemorations of the case, which in turn have led to protests. One protest has been staged against a pub named The Jack the Ripper, located in the East End. Protestors claim that a pub named after the Ripper can only stimulate crime. The pub's operators serve a bright red drink called the Ripper Tipple, and plan to sell T-shirts and postcards recalling his exploits. Their answer to complaints about Ripper exploitation is that the name Jack the Ripper does not salute his career of crime but merely recalls a recognized part of London's history.



"We're invited to some sort of jamboree—you're expected to donate a kidney."

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